

JOURNAL

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BPA RELEASES NEW HAZE STUDY

A recently released cumulative regional haze study of 15 existing or proposed Northwest thermal power projects with a combined capacity of 7,000 megawatts shows that the plants would decrease visibility by more than 10 percent on only one day a year in the Mt. Hood Wilderness under a gas-burning scenario. Under an oil-fired scenario, the plants would affect visibility by more than 10 percent for seven additional days in the Mt. Rainier park area. Air quality standards were not exceeded under either scenario; however, there are no standards for visibility.

The plants include combustion turbines recently put into service, those under construction and those that have been issued a Record of Decision, as well as other projects that are well along in the permitting processes.

The new study is an outgrowth of BPA's Phase I Regional Air Quality Modeling Study released this past summer. That study addressed two scenarios. The first assumed all 45 plants planned for the region would be constructed and would operate simultaneously. The second scenario assumed only 28 of the planned projects would be built and energized by 2004. However, it is becoming increasingly unlikely that that much new generation will be built in the near future.

BPA INCREASES F&W FUNDING 37 PERCENT

BPA has increased funding for fish and wildlife for the 2002-2006 rate period from an annual average of

\$252 million to \$345 million, an overall increase of 37 percent. The budget includes \$186 million in expense and capital funding for the Northwest Power Planning Council's fish and wildlife program, and \$159 million in capital investments to benefit fish and wildlife and direct funding of the hydroelectric share of Corps and Bureau operations and maintenance for fish and wildlife related activities.

In a letter to the Council, Acting Administrator Steve

Wright also said that BPA plans to leverage other sources of funding through cost sharing and innovative partnerships with other federal, state, and tribal governments. The letter expressed BPA's desire to develop a truly unified plan for recovery of endangered fish in the region. Such a plan would prioritize Endangered Species Act (ESA) measures in the Council's fish and



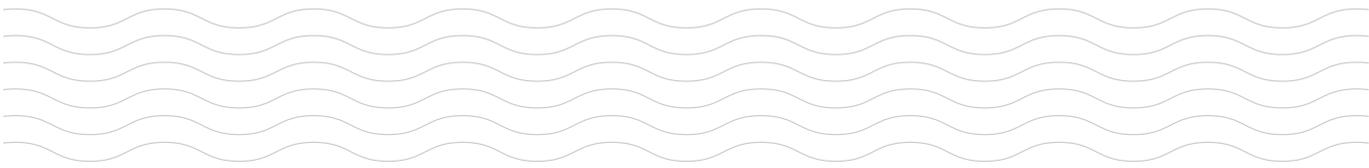
Oregon's Mt. Hood

wildlife plan. BPA also hopes to see coordination between the Council's plan and implementation plans for the 2000 Biological Opinion.

BPA DOUBLES WIND ENERGY PURCHASES

In an agreement signed in December, BPA began purchasing about 90 megawatts of power through PacifiCorp Power Marketing Inc., a subsidiary of ScottishPower, from the Stateline Wind Project located on the Oregon-Washington border southwest of Walla Walla, Wash. BPA's purchase can





provide energy for about 18,000 homes. The contract is the largest single wind energy purchase for the agency so far.

“We’re excited to bring wind generated energy to our customers,” Steve Wright, BPA’s acting administrator said. “Wind projects are becoming increasingly cost competitive. The acquisition of these projects will allow us to better understand the real costs of wind integrated with our hydro system.”

The Stateline project is built, owned and operated by FPL Energy, LLC. BPA currently purchases 34 megawatts of wind power from Foote Creek located in Wyoming and 50 megawatts from another wind power development in Condon, Ore. BPA has six more wind projects under evaluation that could add over 600 additional megawatts to the agency’s supply of wind-generated power for the Northwest.

AIR FORCE HANGARS RETROFITTED

Fairchild Air Force base in Spokane, Wash., will be able to lower its utility bills more than a quarter of a million dollars a year thanks to a BPA program. BPA is working with the base to retrofit a maintenance facility, including four huge aircraft hangars, with the latest in energy efficient lighting, heating and weatherization. The makeover’s already done on one hangar; the whole project should be completed by spring. A commissioning ceremony is slated for early 2002 when two of the four hangars will be done.

NEW CABLE LAID TO SAN JUAN ISLANDS

The task wasn’t simple: Unroll seven miles of transmission cable, all 832 tons of it, onto the bottom of Puget Sound. Make sure every foot lies in the right position. Where hazards such as six-foot boulders appear on the ocean floor, lay the cable around them and return to the plotted course. In its trench on the beach and under the sea, BPA’s new 69-kilovolt cable will improve reliable power service to the remote San Juan Islands.

That is the job just finished in the San Juan cable reinforcement project. A 350-foot ship with five

propellers maneuvered the heavy cable into place. “The unwieldiness of the cable felt surprising,” said BPA Project Manager Mark Korsness. “It goes where it wants to, so you have to maneuver the ship to pull it on track.”

The next step will be to connect the sea-going cable to the conductor on land. “After you peel back this thick outer coating, the number of layers and hookups in this cable is incredible,” Korsness observed. The line will be energized this winter. BPA laid its first cable to the archipelago in 1951.

2001 A RECORD YEAR FOR RETURNING SALMON

More than 1.8 million adult salmon and steelhead swam upstream through Bonneville Dam last year, more than any other year since counts began in 1938. Last year’s returns are more than three times the 575,000 average of the previous 10 years. But, unlike bumper crops of earlier decades, most runs are predominantly hatchery fish. Two exceptions are fall chinook, whose record numbers of more than 400,000 were primarily wild fish spawned in the Vernita Bar section of the Columbia River, and between 5,000-10,000 chum salmon. BPA maintains flows in the river from Thanksgiving until spring to encourage Vernita Bar chinook and threatened chum salmon to spawn and then to keep the redds, or nests, covered until the eggs hatch and the young fish leave their nests.

Fish runs reaching the Snake River also have rebounded. More than 240,000 steelhead and 196,000 chinook passed the last federal dam on the mainstem, Lower Granite. Of these, more than 18,500 were wild steelhead. Wild fall chinook are expected to approach their Endangered Species Act recovery threshold of 2,500. And 36 Snake River sockeye have swum through Lower Granite.

The 2001 fish returns represent the product of good water conditions in 1997 plus positive ocean conditions, according to preliminary analyses. A complete report on fish passage conditions, including downstream migration, should be out in a few weeks.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

STATUS REPORTS

Blackfeet Wind Project EIS, Glacier Co., Mont.

SeaWest WindPower, Inc. proposes to build and operate up to 66 megawatts of wind generation on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. BPA is considering purchasing up to the full electrical output. Power would be integrated into the grid at Glacier Electric Cooperative and Montana Power Co. facilities. A DEIS is expected in spring 2002. Web site: www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/PSA/NEPA/SUMMARIES/blackfeet. [E]

Cliffs Energy Project ROD, Klickitat Co., Wash.

BPA is analyzing whether to provide transmission integration services for a combustion turbine proposed by GNA Energy, LLC. The company would build the power plant, five miles of new natural gas line, and 700 feet of 230-kV transmission line to BPA's Harvalum Substation. Klickitat County issued a Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance in May 2001. A recent change in the project may require a supplement analysis and further public comment when details are known.

NEW! COB Energy Facility Interconnection EIS, Klamath Co., Ore.

Peoples Energy Resources Corp. has requested interconnection of its proposed 1,200-MW combustion turbine project, to be constructed in two 600-megawatt phases at a site near Bonanza in Klamath Co., Ore. Phase I is scheduled to energize in June 2004. The project is subject to Oregon EFSEC certification. A public scoping meeting is scheduled Jan. 15. BPA has prepared a NOI. Call for a copy or to join the mail list. [E]

Coeur d'Alene Tribe Trout Production Facility Project EA, Kootenai Co., Idaho

BPA proposes to fund design, construction, operation and maintenance of a trout hatchery and related facilities to provide off-site mitigation for salmon and steelhead losses on the mainstem Columbia River. The project is on hold while the tribe reevaluates its proposal based on Power Planning Council comments.

Conservation & Renewables Discount (C&RD) Program, Regionwide.

The updated 2002 C&RD Program Implementation Manual is now available on the Energy Efficiency/C&RD Web site at: [www.bpa.gov/Energy/N/projects/cr_discount/pdf/crdmanualv6\(11-7-01\)1.pdf](http://www.bpa.gov/Energy/N/projects/cr_discount/pdf/crdmanualv6(11-7-01)1.pdf) [E]

Federal Columbia River Power System Implementation Plan, Regionwide.

This is the federal draft plan for Columbia River Power System Operations in 2002-2006 to carry out biological opinions issued under the Endangered Species Act. Federal agencies closed comments on the draft plan on Sept. 28. See www.salmonrecovery.gov. [E]

Fish and Wildlife Implementation Plan EIS, Regionwide.

This EIS examines potential impacts of implementing any of the fish and wildlife policy directions being considered in regional processes. BPA received public comments on the DEIS in summer 2001 (#0312); the final EIS is expected later this winter. [E]

NEW! Grand Coulee-Bell 500-kV Transmission Line (Eastern Washington Reinforcement) EIS; Douglas, Grant, Lincoln and Spokane Cos., Wash.

This project would replace over 80 miles of existing 115-kV wood pole transmission line with a new, higher capacity 500-kV steel lattice line. The proposed 500-kV transmission line would connect BPA's existing Bell Substation in Spokane to the Bureau of Reclamation's Grand Coulee Switchyard at Grand Coulee Dam, and would be located primarily on BPA's existing right-of-way. Public scoping meetings are scheduled for Jan. 29, and 30, and Feb. 6, 2002. Comments will be taken until Feb. 15, 2002. [E]

Grande Ronde and Imnaha Spring Chinook Project EIS, Wallowa and Union Cos., Ore.

This project would build fish trapping, rearing and release facilities

to help restore spring chinook in the Lostine and Imnaha rivers of Northeast Oregon. Planned facilities will modify and supplement existing Lower Snake River Compensation Plan facilities. Public scoping meetings will be held Jan. 15, 16 and 17, 2002. Comments will be taken until Jan. 31, 2002. [E]

NEW! Grizzly Generation Project EIS, Jefferson Co., Ore.

Cogentrix proposes to build a 980-MW combined-cycle combustion turbine power plant and has requested interconnection at BPA's Grizzly Substation. An EIS will be prepared evaluating easements for facilities servicing the project, including a 3,000-ft. easement for a 500-kV transmission line, a 14-mile easement for an underground water pipeline, and a 7,000-ft. easement for an underground natural gas pipeline. The U. S. Forest Service is the lead federal agency; BPA and the Bureau of Land Management will be cooperating federal agencies. Oregon EFSEC will cooperate in the environmental analysis by coordinating its siting process with the NEPA process. EFSEC will host a public information meeting in January 2002.

Horse Heaven Wind Project EIS, Benton Co., Wash.

BPA proposes to purchase up to 50 aMW from a 225-MW wind project proposed by Washington Winds Inc. The developer would build, own and operate the project and would build about 12 miles of transmission line to interconnect with BPA's transmission grid. Public comments were taken through Nov. 14, 2001. [E]

Johnson Creek Artificial Propagation Enhancement EA, Valley Co., Idaho

This project would seek to recover the creek's depleted native summer chinook salmon population. It would include additional facilities at the McCall Fish Hatchery in McCall, Idaho, and acclimation facilities along Johnson Creek. Scoping concluded March 30, 2001. An EA will be available for public comment in spring 2002. [E]

Kangley-Echo Lake Transmission Line Project EIS, King Co., Wash.

BPA proposes to build a 500-kV transmission line to connect an existing transmission line near Kangley to Echo Lake Substation. BPA's preferred alternative would run parallel to its existing Raver-Echo Lake 500-kV line. The project is needed to improve transmission system reliability and to meet requirements of the Columbia River Treaty with Canada. The comment period on the DEIS (#0317) closed Sept. 4. A final EIS is expected in spring 2002. [E]

Maiden Wind Farm EIS, Benton and Yakima Cos., Wash.

Washington Winds Inc., proposes to build and operate a wind project of up to 494 MW north of Prosser. BPA proposes to acquire and transmit up to 50 aMW, but will study the full electrical output of the project. The DEIS is expected for review this winter. Web site: www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/PSA/NEPA/SUMMARIES/MaidenWindFarm.

McNary-John Day Transmission Line Project EIS, between McNary and John Day dams, Ore. and Wash.

BPA proposes to build about 79 miles of new 500-kV transmission line parallel to existing BPA lines between McNary and John Day Substations. It would cross the Columbia River below McNary Dam, run parallel to the north side of the Columbia through Benton and Klickitat counties, and cross back into Oregon near John Day Dam. It is needed to integrate some of the many new generating projects considered for this area and to reinforce transmission reliability. Scoping closed on June 7, 2001. A DEIS is expected out for review in February 2002. [E]

Mercer Ranch Generation Project EIS, Benton Co., Wash.

BPA is working with Washington EFSEC on environmental review of an 800-MW combined-cycle combustion turbine power plant proposed by Mercer Ranch Power, LLC, 11 miles west of Paterson, Wash. BPA proposes to build and operate a switchyard that would interconnect to the transmission grid and allow for switching between two existing transmission lines and the proposed McNary-John Day transmission line, which crosses the proposed project site. For information, see <http://www.efsec.wa.gov/mercer.html>.

MORE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Mint Farm Generation Project, Longview, Wash.

BPA is considering integrating power from Mint Farm Generation's proposed 319-MW combined-cycle combustion turbine near Longview, Wash. BPA would build and operate about a quarter mile of new 230-kV transmission line. A public meeting was held Nov. 28, 2001. Comment closed Dec. 6, 2001. A ROD is expected in January 2002. ☒

Mountain Lakes Trout Restoration Project EA, Flathead National Forest, Mont.

BPA proposes to fund a project to remove exotic trout species from selected lakes in the South and Middle forks of the Flathead drainage and replace them with genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout. Call to join the mail list.

Santiam-Bethel Transmission Line Project EA, Marion and Linn Cos., Ore.

BPA proposes to rebuild 17 miles of the Santiam-Chemawa line from its Santiam Substation to the line's connection to Portland General Electric's Bethel Substation. BPA would replace the existing single-circuit 230-kV line with a double-circuit 230-kV line. The project would relieve overloads on the existing line in winter. BPA originally proposed a new line next to the existing line. As a result of public comments during scoping, BPA changed its proposal to a rebuilt double-circuit line. The preliminary EA comment period closed Oct. 18, 2001. A final EA is expected in January 2002. ☒ ☑

Schultz-Hanford Area Transmission Line Project EIS, near Ellensburg to near the Hanford Reservation, Wash.

BPA proposes to build a new 500-kV line from Schultz Substation to a new or existing substation near the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. The project is needed to relieve constraints on several lines, provide more operational flexibility to meet endangered salmon obligations and maintain transmission capacity to import and export energy. Four routes are under consideration. Following public comments in scoping, BPA eliminated one potential route and identified a new option to avoid most irrigated farmland. A DEIS is expected in Feb. 2002. See www.efw.bpa.gov under environmental planning/analysis.

Starbuck Power Project EIS, Columbia and Walla Walla Cos., Wash.

BPA proposes to construct about 16 miles of 500-kV transmission line from the proposed Starbuck Power Plant to Lower Monumental Substation to connect the 1,200-megawatt, combined-cycle combustion turbine into the power grid. Existing lines are near capacity. BPA is cooperating with Washington EFSEC, which has the lead for environmental review of the generation project; BPA has the lead on integrating transmission. About 50 people attended a public scoping meeting Oct. 3. A DEIS is expected in Feb. 2002. See www.efsec.wa.gov/starbuck.html. ☒

TransAlta Centralia LLC Big Hanaford Generation Project, Lewis Co., Wash.

BPA will offer contract terms for integrating power from the TransAlta Centralia LLC Big Hanaford Project, a 248-MW gas-fired combined-cycle combustion turbine, into the transmission grid. For a copy of the ROD, go to www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/PSA/NEPA/SUMMARIES/TransAlta. ☑

Umatilla Generating Project EIS, Umatilla Co., Ore.

Umatilla Generating Co., LP, proposes to build a 550-MW combined-cycle combustion turbine. The Umatilla Electric Cooperative would reconductor about 11 miles of transmission to 230-kV, and build about a half mile of new 230-kV line to BPA's McNary Substation, where BPA would integrate the power into the grid. The DEIS comment period ended Oct. 15. A final EIS is expected in January. See www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/PSA/NEPA/summaries/Umatilla. ☒ ☑

Wallula-McNary Transmission Line/Wallula Power Project EIS, Walla Walla Co., Wash., and Umatilla Co., Ore.

BPA proposes to build 34 miles of 500-kV transmission line from a 1,300 MW combined-cycle gas-fired combustion turbine proposed by Wallula Generation, LLC in Wallula, Wash. to McNary Substation in Ore. BPA also proposes to construct and operate the Smiths Harbor Switchyard to interconnect the output into the transmission grid. BPA is working with Washington EFSEC on environmental review of the entire project. A DEIS is expected in February 2002. See www.efsec.wa.gov/wallula.html. ☒

Wanapa Energy Center Generation Proj. EIS, Umatilla Co.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation have requested interconnection of the Wanapa Energy Center, a proposed 1,000-MW gas-fired combined-cycle combustion turbine generation project, into the transmission grid. The project would be located on tribal trust land. The Bureau of Indian Affairs intends to prepare an EIS on the project and BPA has requested to be a cooperating agency. BIA held public meetings in October and November, and expects to release a DEIS in April 2002.

☑ SUPPLEMENT ANALYSES

Vegetation Management EIS:

- Along Marion-Alvey #1, Eugene, Ore. (SA-27)

Watershed Management EIS:

- Duncan Creek Channel Rehabilitation Project, Skamania Co., WA (SA-71)
- Improve Anadromous Fish Passage in Omak Creek, Okanogan Co., WA. (SA-69)
- Increase Instream Flows to Dewatered Stream Reaches in the Walla Walla Basin, Walla Walla Co., WA (SA-73)
- Install Fish Screens to Protect ESA Listed Steelhead and Bull Trout in the Walla Walla Basin, WA (SA-67)
- Mill Creek and Little Creek Crossing, OR (SA-68)
- Yakima Basin Side Channels Project, Scatter Creek/Plum Creek Land Acquisition Phase I Kittitas Co., WA (SA-70)
- Yakima Basin Side Channels Project, Scatter Creek/Plum Creek Land Acquisition Phase II Kittitas Co, WA (SA-72)

Wildlife Management Program EIS:

- Bader Property Acquisition, Idaho (SA-19)

☑ CALENDAR OF EVENTS

COB Energy Facility Interconnection EIS

Public Scoping Meeting, Lorella Community Hall, 9787 E. Langell Valley Rd., Lorella, Ore. 7 - 9 p.m. Jan. 15.

Grand Coulee-Bell 500-kV Transmission Line Project (Eastern Washington Reinforcement) EIS

Public Scoping Meetings, Old Center School Building: 317 Spokane Way; Grand Coulee, Wash., 4-7 p.m. Jan. 29; Davenport Elementary School: 1101 7th St.; Davenport, Wash., 4-7 p.m. Jan. 30; Inland Northwest Wildlife Council Auditorium; 6116 N. Market St.; Spokane, Wash., 4-7 p.m. Feb. 6;

Grande Ronde and Imnaha Spring Chinook EIS

Public Scoping Meetings, Imnaha Christian Fellowship, 78782 Imnaha Highway, Imnaha, Ore., 7:00 p.m. Jan. 15; South Fork Grange, 131 Highway 82, Lostine, Ore., 7:00 p.m. Jan. 16; Eastern Oregon University, Hoke Hall, 1 University Blvd., LaGrande, Ore., 7:00 p.m. Jan. 17.

If you have questions or comments, or to be added to the mailing list for any project, call (503) 230-3478 (Portland) or 1-800-622-4519.

☒ Indicates the comment period has closed. ☑ Indicates a public meeting is scheduled. ☑ Indicates a document is available. To order copies of documents, call: 1-800-622-4520 or (503) 230-4413. Written comments may be sent to: BPA, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, OR 97212. E-mail address: comment@BPA.gov BPA home page: <http://www.bpa.gov>. For details on BPA environmental reviews listed above, including site maps and documents issued to date, see <http://www.efw.bpa.gov/cgi-bin/PSA/NEPA/Projects>.

Process Abbreviations: DEIS-Draft Environmental Impact Statement, EA-Environmental Assessment, EFSEC-Energy Facility Site Evaluation Committee, EIS-Environmental Impact Statement, NOI-Notice of Intent, ROD-Record of Decision, SA-Supplement Analysis.